

REMARKS

Claims 11-16, 18 and 20 are pending in this application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 17 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 11 is amended herein to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Applicants submit that support for this amendment may be found in the specification at least at page 9, lines 25-27 and that no new matter has been added.

Claims 11-16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Cahill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,398). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection as applied to the present claims.

In Cahill et al., an image (18) of a recording medium is adhered to a substrate (22) by means of an adhesive (24). Cahill et al. discloses that the substrate may be a film, textile, paper, or the like. (Col. 7, lines 28-37.) Metal films are mentioned as a possibility, although they are not used in any of the working examples. Applicants submit that if a metal film were to be used as the substrate in the Cahill et al. invention, the luster of the metal film would easily be lost due to the influence of the solvent remaining in the adhesive layer, and of the moisture and dye, etc. in the ink making up the image, since the metal film constitutes the ink receptive layer through an adhesive.

In contrast, in the present invention, the base material is transparent and ink-intercepting; thus, the metal luster on the surface of the metal film can be maintained for a long time. (See page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 4 of the specification.)

Applicants further note that in Cahill et al., there is also the possibility that the color quality of the coloring material may deteriorate, as the coloring material in the image is in contact with an adhesive.

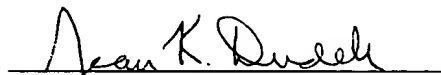
In Applicants' view, Cahill et al. does not teach or suggest the aforementioned features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that Cahill et al. does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in Claim 11. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given regarding independent Claim 11, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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